

Farm Park

G e r m a n t o w n , T e n n e s s e e

BL FARM PARK COMMUNITY GARDENS – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. When is the Community Garden going to be built? The construction of Phase I of the BL Farm Park will be completed in late June 2012. The community garden area located in the center of the farm will need to be developed in the early spring for a successful harvest and summer garden. The BL Farm Park Community Garden Association will be organized in March and April for the garden development and planting. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting applications.

Q. Can I sign up for my own individual plot? No, due to the size and scope of the first phase of the farm park, space is limited. In addition, this new garden is created as a community-building program, so there are no individual plots in the farm park to date. Instead, the BL Farm Park Advisory Committee voted to have the garden divided into community run plots with 'team leaders' who will be responsible for the general operation and coordination of member service hours.

Q. What is the purpose of the community gardens? The BL Farm Park Advisory Group and the City of Germantown desire for this project to be a "community" garden in three aspects: 1) to create a community of growers and gardeners demonstrating stewardship and creating access to healthy food and beautiful flowers, 2) to design the project so it is open to broad-based community involvement, and 3) to give a portion of what is grown to help feed the community and generate income for the garden.

Q. What will be planted in the garden? The City is working with several master gardeners, UT Extension agents and other knowledgeable/experienced gardeners to determine the best plantings for this first year. In the future, garden members will organize in January to create the garden-planting plan. A variety of vegetables, herbs, berries and flowers will be featured in the garden.

Q. Will any fruit trees be planted in the garden? The farm park master plan includes an orchard adjacent to the community garden site. The orchard will be a part of the community garden and members will provide care and oversight to the orchard as well.

Q. Do I have to have knowledge or experience about plants and/or gardening methods and techniques? No. Anyone committed to the project mission and wanting to learn is welcome. Educational opportunities and mentoring new gardeners is an important aspect of the program.

Q. Is this a City of Germantown Parks and Recreation supported Community Garden? Yes. The garden project is being supported and coordinated by the parks and recreation department along with other city departments. Once the community garden membership is strong and has leadership in place, (hopefully by the second year of operation) the city will serve in more of a "facilitation" role to the association.

Q. What is the Bobby Lanier Farm Park and how is it related to the community garden? The Bobby Lanier Farm Park is the City's newest property in the park system. The 10 acre farm is being built as a community gathering place, an educational center for sustainable gardening and agriculture and a demonstration site for environmental stewardship. The farm park will serve as a neighborhood resource to connect people for fun, education, recreation, and reflection to enhance the spirit and pride of the Germantown community. The community gardens will be significant feature of the site.

Q. Who is eligible to become a member? Membership for the BL Farm Park Community Garden is open to adults, families, students and service groups who will make the commitment to plant, nurture, maintain and harvest the garden for the benefit of the entire group and community and who promise to comply with all policies and guidelines.

Q. How can I become a member? Fill out and return the application by mail or fax. Annual membership fees must be paid with the membership application. **Membership is on a first come basis. A two week early registration period will be given to Germantown residents at the beginning of each season.

Applications can be downloaded, filled out and mail or faxed along with your membership fee payable to the **City of Germantown Parks and Recreation Department**. Completed applications and checks may be mailed to

BL Farm Park Community Gardens Membership
C/O City of Germantown Parks and Recreation Department
2276 West Street
Germantown, TN 38138

Q. What are the membership responsibilities? Members must pay annual membership dues to cover garden operations, water and maintenance. There will be work requirements for all aspects of the garden operations and fundraising events. There will be flexibility when members choose to work. Members are required to contribute a minimum of two hours of volunteer service per week. Additional hours of garden related community service may be requested by garden team as needed - during planting season, peak harvest times or special projects work days. Harvest days and food/flower distribution will be determined by the majority of the garden members at the beginning of the season.

Q. What is the cost to be a member? Membership fees are based on the following categories:

Germantown resident under 65	\$ 60	**Some scholarships are available
Germantown senior 65 & older	\$ 45	** Group rates are also available for service clubs, faith-based organizations and schools. Call for more information.
Germantown student 16 and older *(enrolled as a full-time student)	\$ 35	
Germantown family (max 4)	\$ 100	**There will also be a start-up fee for tools equipment of \$25. This fee will not be assessed every year.
All non-resident individuals	\$ 85	
All non-resident families (max 4)	\$ 140	

Q. How will the garden work? Gardeners will be assigned a garden work team and zone for primary upkeep and oversight. Garden Team Leaders will coordinate schedules and help oversee garden operations. Organizational meetings and orientations will be held regularly to review the *BL Farm Park Community Gardens Handbook* (policies and procedures).

Q. Who is running the garden for the first year? The start-up of the garden is a program of the City of Germantown Parks and Recreation and the BL Farm Park Advisory Group. Volunteer team leaders are currently being recruited (any experienced gardener interested in becoming a team leader should contact Pam Beasley, Director Parks and Recreation for the City of Germantown at 757-7375). During the next year, a management structure will be put in place so future operations will be led by the Community Garden Association group.

Q. Will the public be able to access the community gardens? There will be controlled access to the community garden area for the general public and non-members to view and learn about the program. Staff and volunteers will be on site during these designated times. The children’s garden area will be open to the public at all times the park site is open.

Q. Will organic and natural growing method be used? Yes. All process and practices on the farm site will be in keeping with organic “best practices” guidelines. However, the farm site and garden area will not be “certified” organic at this time due the inability to meet reporting and inspection standards. The organic certification will be a long-range goal.